

# **Union Township Environmental Commission**

Minutes for October 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM

Our notice as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. **Roll call**: Present: Sandy Stiger, Michele McBride, Steve Hurford, Bill Harclerode and Chuck Neary were present. (John Wingler, Josh Boyle and Kathy Corcoran sent notices they would be unable to attend.)

## **II. Approval of Minutes :**

1. Minutes from the September 2009 meeting - it was moved, seconded and approved to approve the minutes subject to the changes reviewed by Michele.
2. **Minutes from the July 2009 meeting-** not completed yet.\_

## **III. Old Business.**

1. Trails- perimeter trail at Finn Parks (Michele): Michele reported that Mayor Dziubek is looking onto any liability considerations, and that Township Atty. Peter Jost needs to write a letter to file stating that there is no new use involved by adding this trail.
2. Highlands Coalition- their response to our letter was received. No motion was made to join the Highlands Coalition. This agenda item will therefore be removed in the future.
3. Environmental easement database (John, Chuck N.): No meeting has been scheduled yet.
4. Stormwater Management - required education events (Michele): Michele reviewed the various ways we can complete the necessary requirements. We decided on a plan of action, mostly based on items already completed. Michele will review our recommended action plan with Twp. Engineer Smith.
5. NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act: : Michele reviewed some of the benefits, which would include liability protection, grants, and access to forest experts. However, we would need to create a shade tree commission in the township, write a state-approved Community Forestry Management Plan, and participate in the state's training and accreditation program. There was some discussion about what benefits this would bring, since we already live in a heavily forested area. Bill will discuss with Mayor Dziubek to see what level of involvement the Town Committee might be interested in.

## **IV. Correspondence**

The Musconetong Mountain Conservancy invited us to a dedication of the opening of the new section of the trail from Sweet Hollow preserve to Jugtown Mountain Preserve on Sunday, October 25.

Land Conservancy of NJ sent us their annual report and newsletter.

NJDEP sent a Notice of Technical Incompleteness on Pattenburg Quarry's request to continue with mine reclamation (filling) operation.

Michele reported that the township has received several inquiries from residents on what to do with grass clippings, etc. Michele reviewed a recommended statement to address these questions, which was found to be acceptable by UTEC. Michele will forward this statement to the Assistant Clerk and will also include this in the upcoming UTEC newsletter.

## **V. New Business**

Chuck Neary suggested that UTEC consider hosting future public seminars to discuss Invasive Species and Native Planting.

## **VI. Chair's Report**

1. AT&T Contest- A private citizen plans to enter UTEC into a contest to win \$25,000 to help fund environmental initiatives.

## **VII. Reports of Subcommittees**

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): Sandy reported that inspection of three Open Spaces has now been completed: Scheuing, Milligan Farms, and Finn Road Park. Photos have been placed into the files for purposes of future monitoring.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
  - I. Hoffman Park- still waiting for the County to review the Request for Proposal (RFP). Also need input from Twp Attorney on the draft lease agreement.
  - II. Douglas - pending approval by Township Committee on the following two items
    - 1 Deed of easement
    - 2 Resolution authorizing sale
  - III. Milligan Farms- The Stewardship Committee of UTEC recommends that the house, two barns and 2 1/2 acres of land be auctioned off in order to preserve the buildings. Another option is to utilize these buildings as part of the COAH commitment, if that is possible.
3. Planning Board Report (Kathleen Corcoran-by email)
  - Plushanski (excavation company) bought the old quarry along Frontage Road, just east of the existing block company quarry. Plans to use the property for class B recycling. No plans to construct a building. No blasting is planned. Will clean up the property so that the planning board can visit the site to assess proposed use.
  - Township chose Conifer as developer for COAH units at Milligan Farm. Parties are currently working on a Developers Agreement.
  - St. Catherines of Sienna application to expand parking lot was approved. The lot will include a one way in and one way out configuration to minimize traffic issues on Perryville Road.
4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)
  - I. Road Noise. Local legislative support for unmuffled engine braking noise enforcement and associates rule changes will have to wait until after the upcoming November elections.
5. Communication / Education (Michele Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous)
  - a. Newsletter : Sidney Brook, e-cycling, buy local, Sustainable NJ, yard waste/composting were discussed for inclusion.
  - b. Website
6. Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode)
  - I. Princeton Hydro (Dr. Sousa) will schedule the next stakeholder meeting to review Watershed Assessment Report and discuss Watershed Protection Plan. After that, it will be presented to the public at a UTEC meeting. Bill will follow-up with Princeton Hydro on this.

II. Quarterly report status: Not submitted yet. Bill will follow-up with Princeton Hydro.

7. UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode)

- Township intends to opt in to the Highlands Planning area. Highlands sub-committee is currently modifying Modules of the Highlands Master Plan to fit into the Township planning documents. The current opt-in date in December 2009.

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8. Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous)

- Chuck received confirmation that Skip Jonas, Lisa Coster and Bill Harclerode wish to be members of the "Green Team" Subcommittee, and sent a request to the Mayor to have Skip and Lisa approved as member of the subcommittee. Chuck received the signed resolution authorizing us to pursue certification under the Sustainable New Jersey program.
- Chuck will scan the resolution and completing the online registration for the program and expects to have that completed by the end of October. A meeting of this subcommittee will then be held.

### **Hearing of Citizens**

None

### **Adjournment**

It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting minutes by: Bill Harclerode